

I would like to congratulate each member of the team including Nathan Buckallew, Nathan Blanchard, Jackson Vines, Jack Dreyer, Derek Friestad, Andrew Nord, Adam Stiles, Noah Hogge, Derek Hackman, Caleb Kuennen, Keaton Duckett, Noah Janssen, Jacob Tobey, Peter Johnson, Drew Beazley, Brock Studer, Nick Yeast, Cade Moss, Andrew Zimmerman, Sean Meyer, Peyton Williams, Alex MacGregor, Jack Burger, and Evan Salmon; their head coach Michael Barta; the assistant coaches Tom Steffes, Quinn O'Brien, Jake Ernd, Adam Richman, James Stone, and Mitch Gearhart; and the student managers Cole Borwick and Nathan Olive.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young men for their achievements in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MI SUEÑO WINERY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mi Sueño Winery and owners Rolando Herrera and Lorena Robledo Herrera upon the occasion of their twentieth Anniversary of producing excellent wines.

Rolando Herrera and Lorena Robledo were both born in Mexico. Their families immigrated to the Napa Valley to seek better lives and opportunities for their children. Lorena's family taught her to tend vines and grow grapes, and Rolando was able to study enology and viticulture at UC Davis. When the couple met, "it seemed like fate."

Rolando and Lorena founded Mi Sueño Winery in 1997, the same year that they were married. Together they have built their dream winery with love, passion and deep understanding of the art of growing exceptional grapes and creating award-winning wines. As Rolando says, "farming and making wine is not science, it's experience."

Rolando and Lorena believe that creating truly unique wines requires careful attention to every stage of the winemaking process, from start to finish. From choosing the right plot of earth, to personally planting the vineyards and selecting the most attentive distributors, Rolando and Lorena have created a truly exceptional business and product. The White House recognized the quality of their wines by pouring three different Mi Sueño wines at state dinners. Earlier this year, the Smithsonian Institution honored them at their Fifth Annual Winemakers' Dinner.

This month Rolando, Lorena and all their children will gather to celebrate their twentieth Anniversary. Rolando and Lorena have developed different single-vineyard, barrel-selected wines named after each of their six children. Their brave story of immigration, incredible hard work and passion is a perfect example of what it means to live the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, Mi Sueño Winery has been producing quality wine for the past 20 years.

I am proud to have such a hardworking family living in our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

H.R. 339, THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ECONOMIC EXPANSION ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for understanding that my bill, H.R. 339, as amended by the Senate, was time-critical and for acting swiftly upon this measure on Friday, August 11.

H.R. 339, the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act, was intended to provide one-time relief to the economic disruption that occurred in my district, when a surge of Chinese construction workers used up one-third of the available Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker permits for fiscal year 2017. This left many of our local businesses, small and large, in the lurch. These businesses have foreign workers on their staff, who know the business and upon whom employers rely, for whom fiscal year 2017 permits became unavailable as a result of the Chinese surge. There is an annual limit on the number of these Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker, or CW-1, permits, which are specific and unique to the Marianas. For fiscal 2017, 12,998 were available. H.R. 339 provides 350 more to help out the businesses caught in this bind.

Had the Senate acted more quickly and had the Senate not decided to reduce the number of additional permits to 350, more local businesses could have been assisted. But the legislative process is collaborative and deliberative; and I respect that.

I can say that there are 306 permits that were scheduled to expire in August and September. So by providing an additional 350 permits, H.R. 339, as amended, matches up against that remaining need.

I also note that the Senate amendment takes the current permit system in a new direction by designating that at least 60 of the additional permits for fiscal 2017 must be used for workers in healthcare and at least 10 for power plant operators. These occupational categories are critical to public health and safety. It well may be that in the future any foreign worker permits, specific to the Marianas, will also have to begin to be prioritized to ensure that the most value is added to the Marianas economy by the permitted workers.

Although H.R. 339 provides one-time relief to an immediate shortage of permits, there is further intent. The bill contains two provisions that will make the problem we are fixing now less likely to recur in future.

First, and most importantly, the bill increases the fee that employers pay, as part of the permit process, that goes to training U.S. workers to fill the jobs currently held by foreign workers in the Marianas. Had the Marianas been less dependent on foreign workers, this year's crisis would have been proportionally less intense. So, we must continue to focus on adding U.S. workers to the economy.

The fee increase is from \$150 per annual permit to \$200. And the increase is perma-

nent. It does not apply solely to fiscal 2017, as is the case with the extra permits. It is the intention of the legislation that the fee increase apply to petitions filed on or after the date of enactment, not to petitions previously filed.

Since the beginning of the transitional worker program, these fees have provided about \$10 million to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government and been distributed to educational institutions. Over the same period of time, about 1,200 U.S. workers have been added to the local labor force. I understand from testimony of the Government Accountability Office to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in April of this year, that some \$3 million of the collected fees remain unused.

Effective and prompt use of the U.S. worker training funds are goals I believe should be part of the consideration for future legislation. I introduced in the 113th Congress, H.R. 2200, a bill that would have required the Commonwealth provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security a plan for the expenditure of these funds with a specific, numerical goal for job placement of U.S. workers. My legislation also required a biennial report by the Comptroller General on whether this goal had been met. That legislation did not make it to the finish line here in Congress; however, along with the allocation of permits for specific, high-value occupations, setting performance goals for the U.S. worker training fund is a policy I believe should be a part of our future considerations.

The second provision intended to prevent a recurrence of the current crisis bars the use of the CW-1 permit for new workers in construction occupations. Existing construction companies with foreign workers, who have been in their employ prior to fiscal year 2016, will be able to continue renewing the CW-1 permits of those specific individual workers. There are between 1,000 and 1,500 such individuals, I understand. Approval for a CW-1 permit for an individual in a construction occupation may not be granted, if the individual was not previously approved for a CW-1 permit before October 1, 2015. And no approvals for initial grant of CW-1 status to individuals in construction occupations, as defined in H.R. 339, may be issued, regardless of whether the employer previously petitioned for an employee in such occupation or whether that petition had been approved. This provision, too, is to be continuously effective beyond fiscal year 2017. To avoid unnecessary economic disruption, implementation of the provision barring use of CW-1 permits for construction occupations is intended to apply to pending petitions and to petitions filed on or after the date of enactment.

This division created by H.R. 339 between legacy and new workers will allow our existing construction companies to continue meeting the demand for housing and other buildings that still remains because of the destruction caused by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and, also, results from the overall improvement in the Marianas economy.

Enactment of H.R. 339 does not mean, however, that the Marianas economy will not have access to construction workers to supplement the local labor force. New hires for construction of developments such as the hotels and resorts now on the drawing boards in the Marianas will be—preferably—local, U.S. workers. Alternatively, however, these developments may use visa categories other than

the CW-1 to supply foreign workers. In U.S. Public Law 113-235 Congress provided the Marianas with access to an unlimited number of H-2B visas, which are specifically intended to address any temporary need for workers, such as occurs when a new hotel is built.

In fact, in order to be eligible to apply for the CW-1 permit, applicant businesses must attest that no other visa category is available. In light of the unlimited number of H-2B visas available and because the current problem stems from the use of CW-1 permits for temporary construction workers, I have on numerous occasions requested that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services confirm that these attestations are accurate. Enactment of H.R. 339 makes matters simpler: construction occupations are no longer eligible for CW-1 permits with the exception of renewals of permits first issued prior to fiscal 2016.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement of legislative intent today to the record on H.R. 339. And thanks, again, to all my colleagues who made it possible to move forward with the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act.

TRIBUTE TO MARY CAMPOS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary Campos of Des Moines, Iowa, for being inducted into the 2017 Class of the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame.

The enduring qualities of Iowa Latino Hall of Fame Inductees include: significant contributions to their respective field of work, impactful changes in the social, cultural, economic or political well-being of the community, and inspiring others through their efforts. Mary is the embodiment of these qualities. She has dedicated her life to uplifting others and making sure they have the same opportunities she has had to make an impact on her community. She was also the first Latina to be appointed to the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Mary in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for receiving this esteemed designation. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on receiving this award, and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, the day of July 27, 2017, I am wrongly recorded on the Cartwright Amendment No. 43 to H.R. 3219. I intended to oppose this amendment.

HONORING SHERIFF STEVE FREITAS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sheriff Steve Freitas upon the occasion of his retirement from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Freitas has dedicated 32 years to serving our community in law enforcement.

A native of San Jose, California, Sheriff Freitas moved to Sonoma County in 1988. He attended DeAnza Community College and graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in Administration Justice. He and his wife, Michelle have two sons, Michael and Zachary.

Sheriff Freitas began his career in 1985 with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. In 1988, He joined the Novato Police Department. He joined the Sonoma County Sheriff's office in 1991 where he worked in several different assignments, including Detention, Courts, Patrol, Investigations and Administration. The City of Windsor selected him to be Chief of Police in 2005.

The people of Sonoma County elected and reelected Sheriff Freitas in 2010 and 2014. While serving as Sheriff, he created the Latino Advisory Committee to ensure quality communication and closer relationships with the Latino Community. He successfully guided the Office through necessary budget cuts during the recession. His hard work with Sonoma County's new law enforcement oversight agency is admirable. Sheriff Freitas will be remembered for leading the Sheriff's office to maintain the safety and security of the people of Sonoma County.

In addition to his service in law enforcement, Sheriff Freitas serves on the Boys and Girls Club of Marin and Southern Sonoma County's Leadership Council. He is a member of the Verity advisory board, the California Parenting Institute executive board and the Sonoma County Alliance.

Sheriff Freitas supports the Future Farmers of America and 4-H students at the Sonoma County Fair. He is an active Member of his church, a longtime fan of the San Jose Sharks and an avid camper. He is a valuable member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Freitas has led a long and distinguished career serving the people of Sonoma County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ILLA PLASENCIA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Illa Plaseencia of West Des Moines, Iowa for being inducted into the 2017 Class of the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame.

The enduring qualities of Iowa Latino Hall of Fame Inductees include: significant contributions to their respective field of work, impactful

changes in the social, cultural, economic or political well-being of the community, and inspiring others through their efforts. Illa is the embodiment of these qualities. She has dedicated her life to uplifting others and making sure they have the same opportunities she has had to make an impact on her community. Illa served on the first Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and many more.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Illa in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for receiving this esteemed designation. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on receiving this award, and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF JOSEPH DALY OF THE SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT IN DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Chief Joseph Daly of the Springfield Township Police Department in Delaware County, PA. Chief Daly has honorably served his country and the public his entire adult life. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, served two tours of duty in Vietnam, and then began a forty-plus year law enforcement career. In 2009, Chief Daly became Springfield Township's Chief of Police following his stint as Chief of Police for Lower Merion Township.

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce has rightly honored Chief Daly with their Hometown Hero award. He works tirelessly to ensure the safety of Delaware County residents and has earned the respect of his colleagues and the public they serve. Under his leadership the Springfield Police Department received accreditation by the Pennsylvania Chiefs' of Police Association, a first for a Delaware County police department.

I commend Chief Daly for his passion and dedication to law enforcement in our community and I join the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce in calling him a Hometown Hero.

HONORING KATHERINE AUGUSTINE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katherine Augustine's lifetime of achievements that have touched countless New Mexicans through her work as a nurse and advocate for Native American health. Fittingly, Katherine chronicled her amazing experiences in an autobiography that contributes to the history of New Mexico.